

Kingdom Ministries
& Counseling Center
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Kingdom Ministries 2014 Event Calendar

Schedule of Local Training Events

Track Two: Kingdom Power & Prayer

March 15 — Equipping 203: The Nature of our Battle: Principles of Power & Victory

April 12 — Equipping 204: Citizens & Soldiers: Corporate Prayer & Spiritual Warfare

Track Three: Free to Free

May 17 — Equipping 301: In and Out of Bondage: Inroads to Captivity & the Path to Freedom

June 21 — Equipping 302: Leading Others to Freedom, Healing & Restoration

July 19 — Equipping 303: A Team Approach to Personal Ministry & Discipleship

August 16 — Equipping 304: Mental Illness & Atypical Responses to Personal Prayer Ministry

September 6 — Equipping 305: Understanding & Helping Those with Dissociative Abilities

November 15 — Prayer & Ministry Support Team Training for Churches, Ministries & Small Groups

Other Dates to Remember

February 17 -21 — YWAM, Hawaii

March 22 — Work Day

September — Vision 20/20 Annual Gathering Event

October — TREK, Canada

October 18 — Work Day

October — YWAM, Hawaii

Register Now...



March 15 — Equipping 203
The Nature of our Battle:
Principles of Power & Victory
Registration is \$35
Call: 559-226-2750, or go to:
www.kingdomministriesintl.org



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EQUIPPING

February 2014

A Tale of Two Storms* *What Kind Of Storm Are You Facing?*

There are basically two types of storms we face in life. One type of storm is the kind that must be stilled, while the other is one we must endure. The first question is: Which one are you facing? Perhaps it's an uncertain future or the unknown outcome of a frightening medical diagnosis. Is it the loss of a job or the fear of losing one? Maybe it's the unexplained frequency of chaos, confusion, or unwanted drama in your relationships and life circumstances.

Your storm might include unmanageable patterns of thinking, behavior, and emotion, or unusual experiences that you can't understand and would rather not try to explain. Certainly, Jesus didn't promise us a life without trouble. Yet it's important to discern whether these experiences are something we should endure or address in some way. Our response to such difficulties will determine whether the storms we encounter will result in delay, disaster, or victory.

Jesus experienced one type of storm as he traveled from Capernaum to the region of Gadara (Mark 4). The storm occurred as Jesus was traveling by boat along with his disciples on the Sea (Lake) of Galilee when suddenly and without warning a furious storm came out of nowhere (Mark 4 & Matthew 8).

It is remarkable that these experienced fishermen, many of whom spent a good portion of their lives on this lake, were absolutely terrified (In Greek, *freaked out!*), while Jesus remained asleep on a cushion in the back of the boat.

While it is part of our God-given human nature to have feelings of fear when faced with a potentially life-threatening event, Jesus calls the disciples out for submitting to the kind of fear that kept them from acting in faith. Jesus is not saying, "Stop having the emotion of fear!" Rather, He is saying, "Don't let your fear keep you from acting in faith."

The disciples respond to the storm by crying out, "Lord save us! We are going to drown" (Matthew 8) and, "Lord, don't you care if we drown?" However, their "prayer" invites a rebuke from Jesus in regard to their faith. Yet how often do our prayers sound like this: "Lord, don't you care?" or "This always happens to me;" "Nothing will ever change;" "I can't do it," or some other form of resignation. Such prayers are not prayers of faith but declarations of defeat. However, this doesn't mean we

don't feel this way at times. When we do, it's okay to express it, but there's a difference between confessing, "I feel that things will never change," and declaring "Things will never change," or in this case, "We are going to drown" (Mt 8).



So what did Jesus mean when He chastised them for not having faith? Is the absence of fear the kind of faith Jesus was looking for? Or was He expecting their faith to be rooted in Him and the words He spoke before they set sail? Before leaving shore, Jesus said to His disciples, "Let us go over to the other side [of the lake]."

Because Jesus is the Son of God, and God Himself, and the exact representation His being, and He says, "If you've seen Me,

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Keith Martens, M.Div.
Executive Director

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you've seen the Father," and "I only do what the Father is doing" and "I say exactly what the Father has commanded me to say," we can confidently conclude that what Jesus says is the word and will of God. Therefore, when Jesus said, "Let us go over to the other side [of the lake]," we can be certain that it's God's will to go to the other side of the lake.

But what about the storm? Taking Jesus at His word with the understanding that it was absolutely God's will to make it to the other side of the lake is the kind of uncompromising faith that is based on God's faithfulness to His word and His supreme desire to see it carried out.

Yet the faith that produces fruit and accomplishes God's will also requires an act of faith. Such faith is not just believing what God says is true but then acting upon that truth. In this case or any other case, if something stands in the way, or appears to be inconsistent with what God has spoken, promised, desired, or willed, then it's a storm or barrier of the type that must be resolved.

Jesus' response to the storm was consistent with and insistent upon getting God's way and ensuring that what God willed was fulfilled. Instead of "Oh God, please help us," or "don't you care?" Jesus spoke to the storm and commanded it to "be quiet and be still." It's almost as if He's saying, "Look, this isn't what God wants, so stop it now! Because what God wants is for us to get to the other side because that's what He told us and that's the way it

will be." This is living by faith and not by sight—faith in what God has promised. But once again, this kind of faith is also accompanied by the act of verbally and audibly asserting God's will and word over this or any other storm or barrier that has set itself up against God's truth or purpose. The act of faith demonstrated by Jesus was an authoritative command—"be quiet, be still"—to the obstacle that stood between them and the fulfillment of God's will.

The problem with this storm, as with the difficulties we face, is that we often have no idea why they suddenly occur, and we usually do not realize that there may be something significant going on beyond our present circumstances.

The rest of the story reveals the importance of Jesus' and the disciples' safe arrival to the other side. Once ashore, Jesus not only frees the most demonized man described in the Bible, but also powerfully confronts the powers at work in that entire region. Jesus grants permission for Legion (either a literal 6000 or simply a reference to a heck-a-lot of parasitic critters) to enter the pigs that were used in ritual sacrifice on the altars of the local gods.

I also believe the way Jesus addresses the storm is significant. I recognize it as

being word-for-word consistent with the commands He gives to demons on occasion. If so, it's likely that Jesus and His disciples crossed into a territory that Satan was trying to defend in order to continue his rule over



those he held in bondage (see also how the Apostle Paul was prevented by Satan from visiting the Thessalonians in 1 Thess. 2:18).

Like Jesus, we must be alert to the potential storms stirred up by our enemy, the devil, who comes to kill, steal, and destroy (or delay, distract, confuse, and hinder us from accomplishing God's will). The message here is not that we simply be alert. If you'll notice, Jesus was sleeping! It wasn't the storm that woke Him up but His disciples. We must certainly be alert to the possibility that the storm or difficulties we face may not always be something God intended for us to endure. Simply being alert won't make the storm go away.

Like Jesus, we must speak aloud to the storm and command it to "stop, be quiet", and "be still, in Jesus' name!" If it calms down and stops you may likely have a spiritual battle on your hands. If so, it's a good

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We must be alert to the possibility that the storm or difficulties we face may not always be something God intended for us to endure.

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time for you, and perhaps others, to pray—to ask God to reveal what's going on and to remind you of your destination. Once you are aware, you can begin to battle the spiritual forces of evil that are at work to affect you and the plans God has intended for you or through you.

What about your storm? Is it inconsistent with what you know to be true of God, His promises, and will for your life, your marriage, or your family?

Are you just riding it out, trusting or hoping that something will change someday?

Or, are you trying to be patient, looking for lessons to learn from while the storm slowly or rapidly dismantles your life's boat? Jesus demonstrates that this kind of storm is not for learning lessons or intended for spiritual growth, but for destruction, delay, or distraction. If there's any lesson to be learned from Jesus in this storm, it's a lesson to stand up,

stretch out your hand, and verbally command it to "STOP!"

But what happens when you speak to the storm and it doesn't stop? I'll address this question in *Part II*, which will be featured in our next issue of *Equipping*.

*A *tale* is by definition a narrative or story of either real or imaginative events. The title here refers to a summary of a longer article and forthcoming booklet titled *A Tale of Two Storms* by Keith Martens.

Kingdom Counseling Center

Robin Lion joined our counseling staff at the beginning of this year. A Fresno native, she received her M. S. in Counseling at Fresno State University in 1990, and became a licensed therapist in 1992. After working in private practice for five years, she took a leave to be home to raise her three children. While she was not practicing professionally,

she continued in a role of helping others. She served as a leader in various groups focused on healing, including Celebrate Recovery and as a Certified Marriage Enrichment Counselor. She has offered mentorship and discipleship to hundreds of people over the last 17 years.

Robin has been involved in prayer ministry at Kingdom

Ministries for several years, volunteering her time and gifts at our training seminars and in ministry sessions. She says, "I am convinced that the only lasting change that one can experience is the supernatural change that comes through relationship with Jesus Christ—it is my hope that my counseling skills will be used by Him toward that purpose."



Robin Lion, M.S., L.M.F.T.

How To Connect and Partner With Us

Office Address
245 W. Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93704

Office Phone
(559) 226-2750



Website
www.kingdomministriesintl.org

Email
kingdommail@
kingdomministriesintl.org

@ Kingdom Ministries
& Counseling Center, Fresno, CA

Needs

We are looking for a volunteer to help with weekly yard maintenance. If you would like to serve in this way, please give us a call.

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